

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

MARIE COSINDAS: COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS
Through July 5, 1987

Boston photographer Marie Cosindas is internationally known for her sensitively composed color portraits and still lifes whose rich, deep colors and soft, natural lighting are reminiscent of old master paintings. Twenty-six photographs, representative of the work she has done since 1965, are on exhibit through July 5 in The Cleveland Museum of Art's Gallery D.

Trained as a painter, Cosindas turned to photography as a creative medium in the early 1960s, working in black and white until she discovered that color was more suited to her visual sensibilities and temperament. In 1962 the Polaroid Corporation asked her to test its new instant Polacolor film, which she has worked with exclusively since 1965. With Polacolor she can control both exposure and development time; and since she can see the outcome immediately, she can quickly make adjustments to achieve the effects she desires.

Cosindas approaches her subjects with a painter's eye, spending hours, for example, arranging flowers or other objects in her still lifes, then photographing them at long exposures in late afternoon light to obtain maximum color saturation and tonal contrast. In her portraits of friends and celebrities, such as Tom Wolfe and Louise Nevelson, or unknown models, the total environment is carefully considered. The colors and textures of the subject's clothing, the fabrics and other objects which are part of the setting, and the dramatic lighting are all designed to create a beautiful and compelling image.

The Polaroid and dye transfer photographs in this exhibition were lent by the artist. The two portraits of Peter B. Lewis, chairman of Progressive Insurance Companies of Cleveland, were lent by Mr. Lewis.